



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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## Fairfax County Stewardship Shares the Facts on Canada Geese

The Fairfax County Park Authority recently published a leaflet on Canada geese in which residents will find useful tips for managing local geese populations. After successfully implementing its own program to dissuade geese from clustering around the Herrity Building fountain and the Government Center pond, the Park Authority produced the free handouts. Community outreach and education is crucial. By explaining their characteristics and behaviors, many concerns and conflicts the public has with Canada geese may be resolved.

Fairfax County's large population of Canada geese is due to the pleasant climate, abundance of grass to eat, and the number of safe places near lakes and ponds to nest and raise their young. Although the public has affection for this federally-protected species and its fuzzy goslings, large flocks of resident geese can cause health and environmental concerns with their excessive droppings. Also, Canada geese are wild animals and will act instinctively if they feel threatened by honking, hissing and even attacking on occasion.

The leaflet provides important suggestions for managing geese populations. Planting goose "unfriendly" landscapes near ponds and lakes and ceasing to feed geese human food will discourage the birds from becoming residents and allow them to return to their natural patterns of seasonal migration. The brochure was written by Samantha Cormode, a Lanier Middle School student, as part of her community service work.

You can learn more about Fairfax County Stewardship at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship). For copies of the brochure or more information contact the Resource Management Division at 703-324-8671. Copies are also available at golf courses, RECenters and in the Herrity Building.

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